MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): What is the minimum number of persons necessary to hold a public meeting?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): As many as you can get. (*Laughter.*)

Conduct of the Alleppey Police in connection with the arrest of congress workers.

302. MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the report of the Commissioner of Police regarding the alleged high-handedness of the Alleppey Police in the recent arrests of Congress workers?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The report is a confidential document. It cannot, therefore, be laid on the table.

Enquiry into the conduct of the Police in connection with the arrest of congress volunteers at Alleppey.

303. MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the enquiry regarding the incidents alleged to have taken place at Alleppey in connection with the arrest of volunteers who disobeyed the prohibitory order is over;

(*b*) whether the Commissioner of Police has submitted any report;

(*c*) the nature and method of the enquiry conducted by the Commissioner;

(*d*) whether evidence is taken from respectable citizens of Alleppey who are non-officials; and

(*e*) whether evidence is taken *in camera* or in public?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) An enquiry was conducted at Alleppey by the Commissioner of Police at his camp office, and it is completed.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) He examined various signatories to a pamphlet that alleged excesses by the Police, other residents of Alleppey, and a convicted volunteer, besides examining the District Superintendent and the Inspector of Police, Alleppey.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) The evidence was recorded by the Commissioner in his camp office.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Will the member be pleased to give the names of the respectable citizens who gave evidence before the Commissioner of Police?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): One Mr. Krishna Menon, and eight others had been summoned by the Commissioner of Police. I have got the list before me; I do not know if it would be profitable to read it out.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Did all these nine gentlemen give evidence?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Four of them did not appear before the Commissioner. All the rest gave evidence.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know the names of those who gave evidence?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Mr. Krishna Menon, Mr. A. G. Vurghese, Dr. Panikkar, Mr. Rajagopala Reddiar and Mr. Haroon Tyeb Sahib.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Was any evidence taken from any person other than those who were signatories to the pamphlet?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes; Dr. Panikkar, Mr. Reddiar and Mr. Haroon Tyah Sahib were not signatories to the pamphlet. A convicted congress volunteer, Mr. V. Sivarama Pannikkar, was also examined.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is that volunteer the brother of one Mr. Gopala Panikkar, an Inspector of Police?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not know that.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): What is the substance of the report submitted by the Commissioner of Police?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is given in the answer to the next question.

"They are satisfied that no excessive or unjustifiable force was used in arresting those found breaking the law."

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether evidence was taken with regard to the question of violence at the time of the arrest alone or also with regard to the violence in the lock-ups?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I think evidence was taken with regard to the use of violence during the arrests and also in the lock-up. The latter is still under enquiry.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I take it that the report of the Commissioner deals only with the question of violence during arrest?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have not seen the report.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Will the member be pleased to tell me whether the conclusions contained in the report are the necessary inferences drawn from the evidence collected?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It must be so.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether it would be possible for the Government to place a copy of the report on the table?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is confidential.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether the Government consider that the enquiry that has been conducted is sufficient?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes, so far as the alleged violence at the time of arrest is concerned. In regard to the alleged ill-treatment of the prisoners in the *lock-up*, the District Magistrate, Quilon, has been asked to conduct an enquiry.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : May I know whether the report contains anything about the violence against the public ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I have not seen the report.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : May I know whether, in the enquiry to be conducted by the District Magistrate, Quilon, the question of violence against the public is also included as a subject of enquiry ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The wording of the reference is general. He has to enquire carefully into the allegations of ill-treatment of the prisoners by the Police in the Alleppey lock-up.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : May I know whether there is no enquiry on the alleged violence against the prisoners when they were arrested and *taken* to the lock-up ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The District Magistrate has not been asked to enquire into the alleged violence against the arrested persons *on their way* to the lock-up.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Do the Government really believe that, except the statement of the victims, any other evidence is *possible* in regard to the violence in the lock-up ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The victims themselves can give their statements to the District Magistrate. He may also make enquiries of the bystanders and neighbours. If any violence had been used, it would have attracted a crowd and the people who formed the crowd would know it.

Conduct of the Alleppey Police in connection with the arrest of picketing volunteers.

304. MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether their attention has been drawn to the strong public resentment against the alleged inhuman conduct of the Police against the picketing volunteers in Alleppey ;

(*b*) whether they are aware of a printed pamphlet published on the 15th Kumbham 1107 over the signatures of thirty-three respectable gentlemen of Alleppey protesting against the action of the Alleppey Police ;

(*c*) whether some of the members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly waited on a deputation before the Dewan and represented the grievances of the public against alleged Police high-handedness in connection with the same ; and

(*d*) the action, if any, taken by Government in the matter ?

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